

Eazyprep

# **MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**COMPILATION**

**MARCH 2021**

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**1st March**

### **1) National Affairs**

#### **Union Cabinet approves President's Rule in Puducherry**

The Union Cabinet has approved to dissolve the Puducherry Assembly and impose President's rule in the Union territory, following the resignation of the Chief Minister, V Naryanswamy.

The decision was taken as no party claimed to form a government, following which the Lieutenant Governor had recommended President's Rule.

The approval will now be sent to the President, Ramnath Kovind and the legislative assembly of the UT will be dissolved once the President accords his permission.

**Quick Fact:** The Governor of Puducherry is Tamilisai Soundararajan

### **2) Person in News**

#### **Fullerton India Credit Company appoints Shantanu Mitra as CEO and MD**

Fullerton India Credit Company has appointed Shantanu Mitra as the CEO and Managing-Director.

He has over 40 years of experience in financial services, with over 20 years at Standard Chartered and Citibank.

Previously his role in Standard Chartered was Senior Regional Risk Officer for India, Middle-East, and Africa.

**Quick Fact:** Fullerton India Credit Company is headquartered in Mumbai

### **3) International Affairs**

#### **Irakli Garibashvili as new Prime Minister of Georgia**

The Parliament of Georgia confirmed Irakli Garibashvili as Prime Minister along with a vote of confidence.

Garibashvili pledged to create a long-term development strategy for Georgia in his first hundred days in office.

First, on the agenda, Garibashvili will continue the essential work of the government to ably manage the pandemic and accelerate the focus on rebuilding the economy.

**Quick Fact:** The capital of Georgia is Tbilisi

#### **4) Summit and Conference**

##### **India, Australia, and France hold a trilateral dialogue to focus on Indo-Pacific**

A trilateral dialogue was held among India, Australia, and France on 24th February 2021, at the senior officials' level with a focus on further enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

The aim of this trilateral dialogue is to build strong bilateral relations among the three countries and to ensure a peaceful, secure, prosperous, and rule-based Indo-Pacific region.

The first India-France-Australia Trilateral dialogue was held virtually on 9th September 2020.

**Quick Fact:** Sandeep Chakravorty, the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, represented India

#### **5) Sports**

##### **Dushyant Chautala re-elected as President of TTFI**

Dushyant Chautala has been re-elected as the President of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) for a period of 4 years.

He was elected unanimously during the 84th annual meeting of the TTFI.

He is also the current Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana.

**Quick Fact:** The Table Tennis Federation of India is headquartered in New Delhi.

#### **6) National Affairs**

##### **Chandigarh becomes the first Union territory in India to launch Carbon Watch**

Chandigarh has become the first Union Territory in India to launch Carbon watch, a mobile application to assess the carbon footprints of an Individual.

If a person downloads the application he needs to fill in details in four parts are Water, Energy Waste Generation, and Transport (Vehicular movement)

The application can be assessed by everyone but it has specific options for the residents of Chandigarh.

**Quick Fact:** The Chief Minister of Punjab is Captain Amrinder Singh

## **7) Economy**

### **Moody's projects India's GDP to contract 7% in 2021**

US-based rating agency Moody's has revised its growth projection for India, and now expects the economy to contract 7% in the financial year 2020-21 in its "Global Macro Outlook 2021-22".

This is lower than its previous estimate of 10.6% contraction.

Moody's has projected the economy to grow to 13.7% as compared to 10.8% estimated earlier for the next financial year that is beginning from April 1st, 2021-22.

**Quick Fact:** Moody's along with Standard & Poor's and Fitch Group is considered one of the three credit rating agencies.

## **8) Art and Culture**

### **Kabir Bedi authors a memoir titled "Stories I Must Tell"**

Veteran actor Kabir Bedi has come out with his memoir titled "Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Journey of an Actor"

The book will be published in April 2021.

The book is about the story of his life including the highs and lows of the professional and personal life, his relationships including marriage and divorce.

**Quick Fact:** The publisher of the book is Westland Books.

## 1) National Affairs

### **CSE's report states Covid-19 will impact children across world**

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has released its State Environment Report which highlights that Covid-19 will impact 375 million children across the world.

These children will be vulnerable to being underweight, stunting, and increased child mortality.

As per the report, the pandemic has forced over 500 million children out of school globally and out of the total children, India accounted for more than half.

**Quick Fact:** The Centre for Science and Environment is not-for-profit public interest research and advocacy organization

## 2) Summits and Conferences

### **PM of India to receive award in CERAWeek Conference 2021**

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, is all set to receive the "CERAWeek global energy and environment leadership award" at an annual international energy conference which is scheduled for March 2021

PM will also deliver the keynote address at the CERAWeek Conference 2021 which will be held virtually and organized by IHS Markit.

CERAWeek is an annual international conference that brings together the energy industry leaders, experts, policymakers, leaders from technology innovators, and industrial communities.

**Quick Fact:** IHS Markit Ltd is an American-British information provider based in London

## 3) Summits and Conference

### **NITI Aayog and Invest India organizes conference**

The NITI Aayog and Invest India have associated with the National Bamboo Mission to conduct the National Conference on Opportunities and Challenges for Bamboo in India.

The aim of the conference is to promote the holistic growth of the bamboo ecosystem and discussion by experts and stakeholders will accelerate the efforts of the National Bamboo Mission.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) on 25th February 2021.

**Quick Fact:** The Union Minister for MSME is Nitin Gadkari

#### **4) Government Schemes**

##### **Karnataka launched Namma Cargo services**

The Chief Minister of Karnataka, B.S. Yediyurappa launched the 'Namma Cargo' services.

The service was launched at the Vidhana Soudha, at this place, the State road transport corporation will transport the parcels so as to generate more revenue except for BMTc.

The Cargo services will be implemented across 109 bus stations in Karnataka and selected locations in Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Telangana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.

**Quick Fact:** The Governor of Karnataka is Vajubhai Vala

#### **5) Government Scheme**

##### **Ministry of Rural Development organises Saras Aajeevika Mela**

The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister has inaugurated the Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021 on 26th February at Noida Haat.

It is being organized by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and more than 300 rural self-help groups (SHGs) and craftsmen from 27 states have participated in the mela.

Saras Aajeevika Mela is an initiative of MoRD and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

**Quick Fact:** Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Minister is Narendra Singh Tomar.

#### **6) Science and Technology**

##### **India launches Brazil's Amazonian satellite and 18 others into orbit**

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C51 successfully launched Brazil's Amazonian-1 satellite into orbit from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

The Amazonian-1 satellite is the optical earth observation satellite of the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) and it is Brazil's independently designed, built, and operated satellite.

The other 18 satellites include a mix of Indian and American craft, the India-built satellites are Satish Dhawan SAT, UNITYsat trio, and SindhuNetra.

**Quick Fact:** The India Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief is K. Sivan

#### **7) Government Schemes**

### **MoHUA launches City Innovation Exchange platform**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the City Innovation Exchange (CiX) platform, which will be a significant addition to the growing innovation ecosystem of India and focuses on fostering innovative practices in cities.

The CiX will connect cities to innovators across the national ecosystem to design innovative solutions for their pressing challenges and the initiative.

The initiative is among the ongoing efforts of the Government to realize PM'S vision of New and AtmaNirbhar Bharat by making cities self-reliant.

**Quick Fact:** The Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs is Hardeep Sigh Puri

### **8) Person in News**

#### **Malayalam poet Vishnunarayanan Namboothiri passes away**

Well know poet Vishnunarayanan Namboothiri passes away in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2014

He is also a recipient of several literary honours, including the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award.

**Quick Fact:** The Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of literature in the languages of India.

### **3rd March**

#### **1) Person in News**

#### **Gautam Thakar appointed a Global CEO of OLX autos**

Prosus-owned OLX Group had appointed former Star Sports president and chief executive Gautam Thakur as the global Chief Executive Officer of OLX Autos.

Thakar will take up the role starting from 15th March and will manage the global operations of OLX Autos across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the United States

OLX Autos runs online digital trading platforms in addition to more than 500 inspection centers across America, Asia, and Africa each year inspecting 300,000 vehicles.

**Quick Fact:** OLX Group is headquartered in Amsterdam, Netherlands

## **2) Person in News**

### **Russian Supermodel Vodianova is new UN Goodwill Ambassador**

Russian supermodel and philanthropist Natalia Vodianova has become the United Nations Goodwill ambassador.

She will promote the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls, and encourage them to tackle stigmas surrounding their bodies.

She will be a campaigner for the UN Population Fund, which now calls itself the UNs' sexual and reproductive health agency.

**Quick Fact:** United Nations Population Fund agency is headquartered in New York, United States

## **3) Sports**

### **Indian Women's League 2020-21 to be hosted in Odisha**

All India Football Federation (AIFF) confirms Odisha as the venue for the forthcoming Hero Indian Women's League 2020-21 edition

This is the 5th edition of the Indian Women League, the top division women's league in India.

The Odisha government is a strategic partner of AIFF as it provides the necessary infrastructure to various women and men age-group teams.

**Quick Fact:** President of All India Football Federation is Praful Patel

## **4) Art and Culture**

### **39th Agartala International Book Fair begins at Tripura**

In Tripura, the 39th Agartala International Book Fair with the theme "EK Tripura, Shreshtha Tripura" has begun at Agartala.

Chief Minister of Tripura Biplab Kumar Deb has inaugurated the fair in the presence of Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner Md. Jobayed Hossain.

This book fair will help in building a positive mindset among people and ensure a positive approach for overall progress in society.

**Quick Fact:** Governor of Tripura is Ramesh Bais

## 5) Defence

### **SKAT, LCA, and Sarang teams to perform at Colombo air show**

The Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), Sarang helicopters teams, and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) will perform at an air show at Galle Face in Colombo from 3rd-5th March.

The event is organized for the 70th-anniversary celebration of the Sri Lankan Air Force (SLAF).

In all, 23 aircraft of the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy will take part in the show, they have begun arriving at the SLAF Base in Katunayake, Sri Lanka.

**Quick Fact:** Chief of Defence Staff India is General Bipin Rawat

## 6) International Affairs

### **Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on 1st March**

Zero Discrimination Day is annually celebrated each year on 1st March by the United Nations and other international organisations.

It is celebrated to promote everyone's right, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnicity, skin, colour, etc, and aims to live life with dignity despite one's choices, beliefs, and profession.

The theme of Zero Discrimination Day 2021, "End Inequalities" and a butterfly is the symbol of it.

**Quick Fact:** The headquarters of the United Nations is in New York

## 7) Summits and Conferences

### **Union Health & Family Welfare inaugurates Global Bio-India 2021**

The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the second edition of Global Bio-India 2021 in New Delhi through virtual mode.

The purpose of the event is to showcase the strength and opportunities of the biotechnology sector of India at the national as well as international level.

The Government of India has a target of building a 150 billion USD bio-economy by 2025.

**Quick Fact:** Union Minister of Science and Technology is Dr. Harsh Vardhan

## 8) National Affairs

## **India observes Second Protein Day on 27 February 2021**

In India, February 27th is celebrated as the National Protein Day, to create awareness about protein deficiency and encourage people to include this macro-nutrient in their diet.

The day was launched by the 'Right to Protein', a national-level health initiative on 27th February 2020

This year's theme of National Protein day is "Powering with Plant Protein".

**Quick Fact:** Proteins are essential for the human body, they are building blocks of tissue and can also serve as a fuel source

## **4th March**

### **1) Science and Technology**

#### **Russia launches first Arctic-monitoring Satellite "Arktika-M"**

The Russian space corporation Roscosmos successfully launched its first satellite to monitor the Arctic's climate and environment.

The satellite called "Artika-M" was launched on 28th February 2021, onboard Soyuz-2.1lb carrier rocket, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

This satellite will help to collect information to solve operational meteorology and hydrology problems, and monitor the climate and environment in the Arctic region.

**Quick Fact:** The President of Russia is Vladimir Putin

### **2) Sports**

#### **Vinesh Phogat wins gold in Ukraine wrestling event**

Star Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the gold medal at the Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial tournament in Kyiv, Ukraine.

She defeated 2017 world champion Vanesa Kaladzinskaya.

Up against the world number seven Belarusian, it was not an easy bout for the world number three Indian as the two grapplers kept testing each other with consistent attacks in the sea-saw battle in which Vinesh prevailed.

**Quick Fact:** Kiren Rijju is the current Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

### **3) Defence**

#### **India describes Sri Lanka “Priority One” partner in defence**

Indian High Commission in Colombo has described the island nation of Sri Lanka as its “Priority One” partner in the defence sphere and reassured full cooperation in the field of defence and security.

The assertion comes at a time when the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) is gearing up for the celebration of its 70th anniversary on 2nd March

A total of 23 Indian Air force (IAF) and Indian Navy aircraft will also partake in the event.

**Quick Lanka:** The capitals of Sri Lanka are Colombo and Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

### **4) International Affairs**

#### **UN body recommends graduation of Bangladesh from LDC**

The United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) has recommended the graduation of Bangladesh from the category of Least Developed Country (LDC).

Bangladesh has fulfilled the eligibility criteria in terms of per capita income, human assets, and economic and environmental vulnerability.

This is the second time since 2018 that the CDP has made the recommendation for Bangladesh for graduation from the LCD category.

**Quick Fact:** The Prime Minister of Bangladesh is Sheikh Hasina

### **5) Defence**

#### **Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh takes over as ENC chief**

Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-chief (FOC-in-C) of Eastern Naval Command (ENC).

He replaced Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain

Atul Kumar Jain has been transferred to New Delhi to assume charge as the Vice Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC).

**Quick Fact:** The headquarters of Eastern Naval Command is in Andhra Pradesh

### **6) International Affairs**

## **Ghana becomes the world's first nation to receive COVAX vaccines**

Ghana has become the first country in the world to receive vaccines acquired through the United Nations-backed COVAX initiative,

With the COVAX initiative, 6,00,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine made by Serum Institute of India will be delivered to Ghana

Ghana is among 92 low-and-middle-income countries that are receiving vaccines for free through COVAX.

**Quick Fact:** COVAX is an international cooperative program led by the United Nations World Health Organisation, Gavi and CEPI

## **7) International Affairs**

### **International Yoga festival begins in Rishikesh**

The International Yoga Festival was inaugurated by the Agriculture Minister of Uttarakhand Subodh Uniyal and Patanjali Yogpeeth chairman Acharya Balakrishna in Rishikesh.

The Festival is being jointly organised by Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) and Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN).

Yoga has played an important role in boosting immunity especially during the time of Covid.

**Quick Fact:** The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand is Trivendra Singh Rawat

## **8) Person in News**

### **Jaideep Bhatnagar takes over as Principal Director General of PIB**

The former head of the News Service Division of All India Radio, Jaideep Bhatnagar, took over as Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau.

Prior to his current charge as head of the organisation, Bhatnagar has worked in PIB for six years in different capacities.

He will take over from Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia.

**Quick Fact:** The Press Information Bureau (PIB) of India was established in 1919

## **5th March**

## **1) International Affairs**

### **World Hearing Day is observed on 3rd March globally**

World Hearing Day is held on 3rd March each year by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.

The theme of World Hearing Day 2021 is “Hearing care for all: Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate”.

World Hearing Day 2021 will mark the launch of the first-ever World Report on Hearing.

**Quick Fact:** The headquarters of WHO is in Geneva, Switzerland

### **2) Person in News**

#### **Matam Venkata Rao assumes charge as MD & CEO of Central Bank of India**

Matam Venkata Rao has taken charge as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Central Bank of India.

Previously Rao held the position of Executive Director at Canara Bank.

Rao is a certified associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers.

**Quick Fact:** Central Bank of India was founded on 21st December 1911

### **3) Environment**

#### **World Wildlife Day observed globally on 3rd March**

World Wildlife Day is observed globally on the 3rd March every year to celebrate the beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora present on earth.

World Wildlife Day also raises awareness about the benefits that the conservation of wild fauna and flora provides to people living on earth.

The theme of World Wildlife Day is “Forest and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”.

**Quick Fact:** World Wildlife Fund Headquartered in Gland, Switzerland.

### **4) Defence**

#### **India Air Force to participate in Ex Desert Flag VI**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Desert Flag-IV which has been organised from 3rd to 27th March 2021 at Al-Dhafra air base, UAE.

The purpose of the exercise is to provide operational exposure to the participating forces, train them to undertake simulated air combat operations in a controlled environment.

Ex Desert Flag is an annual multinational large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the United Arab Emirates Air Force.

**Quick Fact:** Chief of Air Staff is Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

## **5) Sports**

### **Indian Badminton players Varun and Malvika wins in Uganda International titles**

India's Varun Kapur and Malvika Bansod clinched the men's and women's singles title respectively at the 2021 Uganda International Badminton tournament in Kampala.

Varun beat compatriot Sankar Muthusamy 21-18, 16-21, 21-17 in the men's singles final.

Anupama Upadhyaya in the women singles summit clash 17-21, 25-23, 21-10

**Quick Fact:** The capital of Uganda is Kampala

## **6) Sports**

### **Mumbai City FC wins ISL League Football Winners Shield**

Mumbai City FC scripted a 2-0 triumph over ATK Mohun Bagan (ATK MB) at GMC Stadium in Goa to bag the Indian Super League, Winners Shield.

Mumbai and ATK MB finished level on 40 points, but the former claimed first place with a better head-to-head record

Mumbai City became the second-ever Indian club to qualify to the group stages of the AFC Champions League.

**Quick Fact:** The Indian Super League is organised by the All India Football Federation and their commercial partners Football Sports Development.

## **7) Science and Technology**

### **Indigenously developed "Spectrograph" commissioned in Nainital**

Indian Scientists at Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital have indigenously designed and developed a low-cost optical Spectrograph.

The Spectrograph is named as Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph and Camera (ADFOSC).

The ADFOSC spectrograph can locate sources of faint light from distant quasars and galaxies in a very young universe, regions around supermassive black-holes around galaxies, and cosmic explosions.

**Quick Fact:** ARIES is founded in April 1954

## **8) International Affairs**

### **Elon Musk tops Hurun Global Rich List 2021**

The 10th Edition of Hurun Global Rich List 2021 was released which ranked 3228 billionaires from 2,402 companies and 68 countries.

The report showed that despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the world added 8 billionaires every week in 2020 and 421 in a year.

Tesla chief Elon Musk bagged the top spot on the Hurun Global Rich List for the first time after adding a massive 151 billion USD during the year 2020 to take his net worth to 197 billion USD

**Quick Fact:** Hurun Report Chairman and Chief Researcher is Rupert Hoogwert (Hurun)

## **6th March**

### **1) National Affairs**

#### **Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV merged into Sansad TV**

The Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Television channels that broadcast the proceeding of the upper and lower Houses of Parliament, respectively, have been merged into a single entity

The new channel has been named the 'Sansad Television'

Ravi Capoor, a retired IAS officer of the 1986 batch, has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sansad TV for one year.

**Quick Fact:** The Rajya sabha Chairman is M. Venkaiah Naidu

### **2) Government Scheme**

#### **Thawarchand Gehlot launches 'Sugamya Bharat App'**

Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot virtually launched the “Sugamya Bharat App” and a handbook entitled “Access-The Photo Digest” through a video conference.

The App and the handbook have been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Sugamaya Bharat App- a Crowdsourcing Mobile Application is a means for sensitizing and enhancing accessibility environment, transportation sector, and ICT ecosystem in India.

**Quick fact:** Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment is Thawarchand Gehlot

### **3) Government Scheme**

#### **Uttarakhand CM launches “Gharoki Pechan, Chelik Naam” scheme**

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has launched “Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam” (daughter’s name is a home’s identity) programme.

It is a development scheme worth 42 crores, initially, the scheme has been launched in Nainital and later set to be extended to the entire state.

The government of Uttarakhand is working towards women empowerment and 32,00 women groups of the state are being linked with self employment to make them self-reliant.

**Quick Fact:** Governor of Uttarakhand is Baby Rani Maurya

### **4) International Affairs**

#### **Israel officially receives first-ever UAE ambassador**

Israel’s President has formally received the first-ever ambassador from the United Arab Emirates, following last year’s historic agreement between the countries to normalise ties.

UAE envoy Mohamed Al Khaja, who arrived in Israel, delivered his credentials to Israeli President Reuven Rivlin at a ceremony in Jerusalem.

The UAE was the first country to agree to establish full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state under the Abraham Accords, a pact broken by former US President Donald Trump.

**Quick Fact:** The Israel Prime Minister is Benjamin Netanyahu

### **5) National Affairs**

#### **National Safety Day is observed on 4th March in India**

The National Safety Day (NSD) is celebrated on 4th March by the National Safety Council (NSC) of India,

In 2021, we are observing the 50th National Safety Day and the theme of NSD 2021 is “Sadak Suraksha (Road Safety)”

The aim of this is to instill a sense of safety awareness among people by providing them with safety, health, and environment-related issues.

**Quick Fact:** National Safety Council was set up on 4th March 1966 by the Ministry of Labour

## **6) International Affairs**

### **World Bank plans 100 million USD guarantee scheme for solar rooftop projects**

The World Bank plans to introduce a 100 million USD credit guarantee scheme to boost India's rooftop solar programme, which has not gained enough traction.

The scheme will allow micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to avail concessional debt financing for setting up rooftop solar units.

The World Bank scheme, along with the SBI and the MSME ministry to accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar units, will help MSMEs access credit of around 1 billion USD.

**Quick Fact:** The President of the World Bank is David Malpass

## **7) Sports**

### **AIBA's champions and veterans committee appoints Mary Kom as Chairperson**

Six-time world champion boxer Mary Kom has been appointed as the Chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) Champions and Veterans Committee.

The 37-year-old was voted to the post by AIBA's board of directors on 3rd March 2021.

The Committee consists of the most respected worldwide boxing veterans and champions who have achieved significant results and are ready to share their experience.

**Quick Fact:** The President of AIBA is Umar Kremlyov

## **8) Environment**

### **Australia builds world's first platypus sanctuary**

Australian conservationists have plans to build the world's first refuge for the platypus, to promote breeding and rehabilitation as the duck-billed mammal faces extinction.

The Taronga Conservation Society Australia and the New South Wales State government said they would build the specialist facility.

The specialist facility will have mostly ponds and burrows for the semi-aquatic creatures at a zoo 391km from Sydney by 2022.

**Quick Fact:** The Prime Minister of Australia is Scott Morrison

## **8th March**

### **1) International Affairs**

#### **UNGA adopts India-led resolution declaring 2023 as International Year of Millets**

The UN General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution sponsored by India and supported by over 70 nations declaring 2030 as the International Year of Millets.

The International Year of Millets is aimed at raising awareness about the health benefits of the grain and its suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions.

The resolution titled "International Year of Millets" was initiated by India with Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia, and Senegal and it was co-sponsored by over 70 nations.

**Quick Fact:** UN General Assembly was founded in 1945, New York, United States.

### **2) Government Scheme**

#### **CM of Tripura launches a digital platform 'Jagat Tripura'**

The Tripura government has come up with a digital platform 'Jagat Tripura' to help people get benefits from various schemes of the Centre and the state government.

The 'Jagat Tripura' will empower citizens of the northeastern state, it is one of the many proactive initiatives undertaken by the state government to spur a technology-led innovation ecosystem.

The project was developed by EasyGov, a Jio Group company, and it will be available to all the residents of Tripura.

**Quick Fact:** Chief Minister of Tripura is Biplab Kumar Deb

### **3) Person in News**

#### **UN appoints Ligia Noronha as Assistant Secretary-General**

UN chief Antonio Guterres has appointed leading Indian economist Ligia Noronha as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Prior to joining the UNEP, Noronha worked at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi as Executive Director (Research Coordination) and as Director of the Division on Resources, Regulation, and Global Security.

Ms. Noronha will succeed fellow Indian and development economist Satya Tripathi.

**Quick Fact:** United Nations Environment Programme is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya

#### **4) Person in News**

##### **Tarun Bajaj takes additional charge of Revenue Secretary**

Department of economic affairs secretary, Tarun Bajaj has been given the additional responsibility of revenue secretary.

He replaced Ajay Bhushan Pandey who retired on 28th February and the Centre has not granted an extension to him.

Tarun Bajaj took the charge of Economic Affairs Secretary last May, when India saw the worst contraction in history on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Quick Fact:** Indira Gandhi was the first female Prime Minister and first female Finance Minister as well.

#### **5) Defence**

##### **DRDO successfully flight test SFDR technology**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from the integrated test range (ITR), Chandipur, off Odisha coast.

The SFDR technology will help DRDO with the technological advantage to develop long-range air-to-air missiles (AAMs).

The SFDR is a missile propulsion system being developed primarily by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in Hyderabad.

**Quick Fact:** The Chairman of DRDO is Dr. G Satheesh Reddy

#### **6) International Affairs**

##### **India downgraded from free to 'partly free' in democracy report**

India's status as a democracy and free society has been downgraded to "partly free" in the latest annual report on global political rights and liberties.

The report is published by Freedom House, a US government-funded NGO that studies political freedom around the world.

The report is titled "Freedom in the World 2021- Democracy under Siege", India had a score of 67 out of 100.

**Quick Fact:** Article 19 of the Indian Constitution guarantees its citizens freedom of speech, assembly, association, movement, residence, and profession with reasonable restrictions.

## **7) Summit and Conferences**

### **India-Sweden participate in a virtual summit 2021**

PM Narendra Modi has participated in the virtual India-Sweden summit with the PM of Sweden Stefan Lofven.

The virtual summit was organised to exchange views on regional and global issues and to discuss the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Both leaders underlined the close relationship between India and Sweden which is based on democracy, rule of law, pluralism, equality, freedom of speech, and respect for human rights.

**Quick Fact:** Stockholm is the capital of Sweden

## **8) International Affairs**

### **UNEP publishes "Food Waste Index Report, 2021"**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) published the "Food Waste Index Report, 2021" which estimated 931 million tonnes of food was wasted across the world in 2019.

Out of total waste generation, households account for 61% of waste, food services for 26% while retail accounts for 13%.

The index report was published in collaboration with the partner organisation WRAP.

**Quick Fact:** UNEP was established by Maurice Strong, the first director.

**9th March**

### **1) National Affairs**

#### **National Committee to be formed by govt. to commemorate 75 years of Independence**

The government constitutes a National Committee headed by PM Narendra Modi to commemorate 75 years of Independence ( on 15th August 2020).

The committee has 259 members that include former President Pratibha Patil, Chief Justice of India S.A Bobde, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, 28 chief ministers, artists like Lata Mangeshkar, A. R Rahman, and many more.

The celebrations are proposed to be launched 75 weeks prior to 15th August 2022.

**Quick Fact:** India became independent on 15th August 1947

### **2) National Affairs**

#### **Sanjay Dhotre inaugurates “India Telecom 2021”**

TEPC (Telecom Equipment Export Promotion Council) has organised “India Telecom 2021” an Exclusive International Business Expo being virtually held on March 3rd and 4th 2021.

It was organised under the Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of the Department of Commerce, Government of India with support of the Department of Telecommunication & Ministry of External Affairs.

The event was attended by potential buyers across the globe.

**Quick Fact:** Sanjay Dhotre is Union Minister of State for Education, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology.

### **3) Art & Culture**

#### **Jaishakar inaugurates new Cultural Centre of HC in Dhaka**

A new cultural centre of the High Commission of India was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar in Dhaka

It is the second cultural centre of the High Commission of India after the Dhanmondi centre at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka

The new cultural centre has facilities for conducting short-term courses on Indian art forms and holding cultural programmes and art exhibitions.

**Quick Fact:** The Minister of External Affairs of India is Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

#### **4) Person in News**

##### **Tashnuva Anan becomes Bangladesh's first transgender news anchor**

A private news channel has appointed Bangladesh's first transgender news presenter.

Tashnuva Anan Shishir will start anchoring news for Boishakhi TV from International Women's Day on 8th March.

Tashnuva Anan is a model and actor who began her career in the theatre group Nautua in 2007.

Quick Fact: The Prime Minister of Bangladesh is Sheikh Hasina

#### **5) Government Scheme**

##### **Harsh Vardhan launches "CSIR Floriculture Mission"**

CSIR Floriculture Mission has been recently approved for implementation in 21 states and UT of India

The available knowledge base in CSIR institutes will be utilised to help Indian farmers and industry reposition itself to meet the import requirements.

Floriculture is concerned with growing and marketing flowers and ornamental plants as well as flower arrangements.

**Quick Fact:** Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is headed by the Prime Minister of India.

#### **6) Science and Technology**

##### **SpaceX successfully tests Starship SN10 rocket**

SpaceX has successfully tested its Starship SN10 prototype rocket after two recent failed attempts.

The SN-10 rocket prototype was launched at an altitude of 10,000 Kilometres on 3rd March and then landed back on the ground. However, the rocket exploded about six minutes after landing.

The test launch is deemed successful because the goal was to gather information on how the flaps work to control the rocket when it is horizontal as it is falling back to earth.

**Quick Fact:** Space X is an American aerospace manufacture and space transportation service company founded by Elon Musk

## 7) International Affairs

### **International Women's Day is observed globally on 8th March**

International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8th of March every year, which celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

This year's theme for International Women's Day is "Choose to Challenge"

**Quick Fact:** The UN began celebrating International Women's Day in 1975

## 8) Person in News

### **Naureen Hassan appointed as first VP & COO of Federal Reserve Bank**

Indian-origin Naureen Hassan has been appointed as the First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the New York-based Federal Reserve Bank.

Hassan, whose parents had immigrated from India, is a 25 year veteran of the financial services industry with expertise in strategy, digital transformation, cybersecurity, and regulatory/risk management.

With this new role, Hassan will become the second-highest-ranking officer of the New York Fed as well as an alternate voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee.

**Quick Fact:** The CEO of Federal Reserve Bank is John C. Williams

## 10th March

### 1) Art and Culture

#### **Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurates World Book Fair 2021**

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has virtually inaugurated New Delhi World Book Fair 2021-Virtual Edition.

2021 is the 29th edition of the annual World Book Fair and for the first time, the fair will be held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It has been organized by the National Book Trust (NBT) and the theme of 2021 is "National Education Policy-2020"

**Quick Fact:** Education Minister of Delhi is Manish Sisodia

## **2) Government Scheme**

### **Forty Scholars to be awarded ISRF 2021**

40 scholars from six countries have been awarded the Indian Science Fellowship (ISRF) 2021 on the basis of their research proposal, experience, academic merit, and publication record.

ISRF is a platform to establish research cooperation and Science and Technology partnerships with neighbouring nations.

It was launched by the Department of Science and Technology in 2015 for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

**Quick Fact:** Union Education Minister of India is Ramesh Pokhriyal

## **3) Person in News**

### **Eminent Kannada poet Lakshminarayana Bhatta passes away**

Renowned Kannada poet, eminent academic, and critic Prof N S Lakshminarayan Bhatta (85 years) passed away in Bengaluru.

He is known as 'NSL' in the literary circles and Kannada music world and a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award.

He was an expert in Kannada, English, and Sanskrit Literature and his anthology of poems included Nilanjana, Deepika, Bhava Sangama, Baro Vasantha, Madhuri, and Mandara.

**Quick Fact:** Sahitya Akademi Award is a literary honour that is conferred on writers of the most outstanding books literary merit published in any 24 major Indian languages.

## **4) Miscellaneous**

### **All-Women Crew on Vessel MT Swarna Krishna makes history**

The all-women crew of onboard Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) vessel MT Swarna Krishna created history as for the first time in the world maritime, that a ship is being sailed by all women officers.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya virtual flagged off an all-women crew to commemorate International Women's Day on the 8th of March.

Mandaviya acknowledged the contribution and sacrifice of the women seafarers who acted as the Indian ambassadors to the global maritime community and made the nation proud.

**Quick Fact:** Mansukh Mandaviya is Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways (Independent Charge)

## 5) National Affairs

### India's first 'Transgender Community Desk' opens in Telangana

Cyberabad police has inaugurated 'Transgender Community Desk' at Gachibowli Police Station in Rangareddy district, Telangana.

It is the first-of-its-kind gender-inclusive community policing initiative of India, the desk will provide counseling, legal aid, life skills, soft skills training, job placements, and many other things.

It will be the focal point for all grievance redressal among the transgender community, the desk will support and file in cases for violence or discrimination against any transgender person.

**Quick Fact:** The Chief Minister of Telangana is K.Chandrashekar Rao

## 6) Government Schemes

### PM to inaugurate 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh

PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh

Maitri Setu has been built over the Feni river which flows between Tripura and Bangladesh.

Maitri Setu symbolises the growing bilateral relations and friendly ties between India and Bangladesh.

**Quick Fact:** The President of Bangladesh is Abdul Hamid

## 7) Science and Technology

### Google launches "Women Will Web Platform"

Google has launched a new web platform "Women Will" on 8th March on the occasion of "International Women's Day".

This platform will provide support to 1 million rural women in India in order for them to become entrepreneurs with the help of accelerator programmes, business tutorials, and mentorship.

The web portal can be accessed in English and Hindi languages and will offer guidance to aspiring women in villages to turn their hobbies into a business like tailoring, home tuition, etc.

**Quick Fact:** The CEO of Google is Sundar Pichai

## **8) Defence**

### **Historic visit of Indian Naval Ships to Mongla, Bangladesh**

The Indian Naval Ships are all set to make the first-ever visit to the historic port town of Mongla Bangladesh.

The ships will make part of the 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' celebration which will be commemorating 50 years of the 1971 liberation war against Pakistan.

Bangladesh Liberation War 1971 was a revolution and armed conflict which sparked due to the rise of the Bengali nationalist and self-determination movement in East Pakistan during 1971.

**Quick Fact:** The PM of Bangladesh is Sheikh Hasina

## **11th March**

### **1) Sports**

#### **Manish Kaushik wins gold at Boxam International Tournament**

Manish Kaushik has clinched gold in Boxing at the 35th edition of Boxam International Tournament with 10 medals in Castellon, Spain.

He defeated Denmark's Nikolai Terteryan with a split 3-2 decision in men's 63Kg.

Bronze medalist Vikas Krishan went down fighting 4-1 against Ndiaye Sissokho to settle for a silver medal in men's 69 kg.

**Quick fact:** The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports is Kiren Rijju

### **2) Government Schemes**

#### **Textiles Ministry & Agriculture Ministry signs MoU for sericulture activities.**

The Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Agriculture today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to amplify sericulture activities in the country.

The MoU will focus on establishing tree-based agroforestry models in sericulture and exploring possibilities of activities through Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

It will enhance training, boost technology and create a sustainable livelihood for silk farmers or rearers.

**Quick Fact:** The Union Textile Minister is Smriti Irani

### **3) Sports**

#### **Bajrang Punia wins Gold at World Ranking Series in Rome**

World Championship bronze medalist Bajrang Punia won a gold medal at the Matteo Pallicone ranking series held in Rome, Italy.

He defeated Mongolia's Tulga Tumor by 2-2 in the 65 kg freestyle final event.

It was his successive gold medal, he won the previous one in the 2020 competition.

**Quick Fact:** Rome is the capital of Italy

### **4) Government Scheme**

#### **UP Govt. launches second phase of Mission Shakti**

The UP government has launched the 2nd phase of Mission Shakti to encourage women empowerment on International women's day.

Under this, CM inaugurated women special Police station in 18 districts along with pink booths and pink toilets

UP govt. Has launched 'Mission Shakti' program on 17th October 2020 for the security of women.

**Quick Fact:** The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh is Yogi Adityanath

### **5) Government Scheme**

#### **WCD Ministry signs MoU with Invest India to enhance cooperation**

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has signed an agreement with Invest India in New Delhi to enhance cooperation.

The goal is to enhance cooperation in the thematic areas of Nutrition, Child Protection and Development, Women Empowerment, and convergent capacity building in mission mode.

DRISHTI under Invest India will conduct input and output analysis research, and other research as per requirement including coordinating with research agencies.

**Quick Fact:** The Union Minister of Women and Child Development is Smriti Zubin Irani

## 6) Art and Culture

### Minister of Culture inaugurates Women's Art Exhibition

Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel has inaugurated the All-Women's Art Exhibition titled "Akshya Patra" at Rabindra Bhavan Galleries in New Delhi on the occasion of International Women's Day.

The exhibition has been organised by Lalit Kala Akademi for providing an opportunity to all female artists around India and World.

It will continue from 8th March till 20th March and showcase more than 250 artworks from over 12 countries.

**Quick Fact:** The Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel

## 7) National Affairs

### President inaugurates conservation work at Singorgarh Fort

President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has laid down the foundation stone for the conservation works of Singorgarh Fort in Singrampur village in Madhya Pradesh.

He also inaugurated a newly carved Jabalpur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India

President also addresses the State Level Tribal conference "Janjatiya Sammelan" in Damoh.

**Quick Fact:** The capital of Madhya Pradesh is Bhopal

## 8) Sports

### PV Sindhu wins silver in BWF Swiss Open Super 300

India's ace shuttler PV Sindhu has won a silver medal in the BWF Swiss Open Super 300 in the final of the women's singles event held at Basel, Switzerland.

She ranks at number 7 in the world and lost to world number 3 Carolina Marin who is an Olympic champion.

Pusarla Venkata Sindhu hails from Hyderabad has won Gold in the 2019 World Championships.

**Quick Fact:** The Capital of Switzerland is Bern

**12th March**

### **1) Government Scheme**

#### **Jammu and Kashmir launches Super-75 Scholarship Scheme**

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor has launched “Super 75” scholarship schemes for meritorious girls, on the occasion of International Women’s Day 2021.

The basic aim of this scholarship scheme is to facilitate the education and entrepreneurship of women.

The super-75 scholarship scheme will support the education of meritorious girls from poor families so that they can excel in streams like medicine, engineering, ITI, and humanity.

**Quick Fact:** The Lieutenant Governor of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is Manoj Sinha

### **2) National Affairs**

#### **Tirath Singh Rawat becomes new CM of Uttarakhand**

The BJP’s member of Parliament from Pauri Garhwal, Tirath Singh Rawat, will be the next chief minister of Uttarakhand.

Tirath Singh Rawat will succeed Trivendra Singh Rawat who resigned.

Tirath Singh Rawat was the chief of the BJP party in Uttarakhand in 2013-15 and also an MLA from the state in the past.

**Quick Fact:** The Governor of Uttarakhand is Baby Rani Maurya

### **3) Person in News**

#### **Koneru Humpy wins BBC Indian Sportswoman-of-the-Year award**

World rapid chess champion Koneru Humpy has won the BBC Indian Sportswoman-of-the-Year award.

BBC director-general Tim Davie hosted the virtual awards ceremony.

The Lifetime Achievement award went to veteran athlete Anju Bobby George.

**Quick Fact:** BBC is headquartered in London, United Kingdom.

### **4) Defence**

## **Indian Navy's receives INS Karanj**

The Indian Navy received its third Scorpene submarine, commissioned as INS Karanj, of Project P-75 in Mumbai.

Karanj is seen as a small submarine having a length of 60 meters as it is equipped with the best sensors in the world.

Mazagon Dock Ltd (MDL), one of India's leading shipyards with the capacity and capability to meet the requirements and aspirations of the Indian Navy.

**Quick Fact:** The Union Defense Minister of India is Rajnath Singh

## **5) International Affairs**

### **Switzerland votes to ban full-face coverings in public places**

Switzerland has voted in favour of a proposal banning full facial coverings including burqa and niqab in almost all public places.

In the public referendum, around 51.2% of voters voted in support of the controversial proposal.

The full-face coverings will be allowed in places of worship and other sacred sites.

**Quick Fact:** The capital of Switzerland is Bern

## **6) Defence**

### **Central Industrial Security Forces Celebrates its 52nd Raising Day**

The Central Industrial Security Forces Celebrates (CISF)- Raising Day (CRD) is observed on March 10 in India every year.

In 2021, India is celebrating its 52nd Raising Day of CISF and the basic objective of the CISF is Better "protection and security" of industrial undertakings in both government and private sectors.

CISF is one of six paramilitary forces in India and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs with its headquarters in New Delhi.

**Quick Fact:** Director-General of CISF is Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

## **7) Economy**

### **Heritage Foundation launches Economic Freedom Index 2021**

The Heritage Foundation, a US Conservative think-tank, recently launched the “Economic Freedom Index”.

The index was prepared by covering 184 countries this time for this period of July 2019 to June 2020.

In the Index, Singapore has topped the global ranking for the second consecutive year and India is at 121st position, coming in the middle of the pack among Asia-Pacific countries, scoring 56.5 points.

**Quick Fact:** The Index of Economic Freedom is an annual guide published to the progress made in advancing economies

## **8) Space and Technology**

### **France launches first military exercises in space**

France has launched its first military exercise in space to evaluate its ability to defend its satellites and other defense equipment from an attack.

This was the first such exercise for the French army and Europe.

It has been codenamed “AsterX” in memory of the first French satellite from 1965 and will be based on 18 simulated events.

**Quick Fact:** The Prime Minister of France is Jean Castex

**13th March**

## **1) Government Schemes**

### **IOCL signs MoU with IDCO for Pradip Plastic Park**

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has signed an MOU with Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) to develop Pradip Plastic Park.

Govt. has initiated the cluster development of the industry through its Plastic Park scheme, keeping the enterprise and employment generation potential of the plastic sector in mind.

Currently, six such parks have been approved by the Government of India, with Pradip Plastic Park being one of them.

**Quick Fact:** The Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel is Dharmendra Pradhan

## **2) Government Scheme**

### **Central Govt. launches certification course on 5G for Govt. Officers**

Secretary of Department of Telecommunications, Anshu Prakash has inaugurated an online certification course on 5G Technology for Government Officers.

It is being conducted by National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation, and Training (NTIPRIT).

It is the first-of-its-kind 36 hours (12 weeks) online 5G Certification Course to train and certify Officers of the Government of India.

**Quick Fact:** The Union Minister of Telecommunication is Ravi Shankar Prasad

## **3) Economy**

### **NITI Aayog along with DEA organises workshop on asset monetisation**

National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, along with the Dept. of Economic Affairs (DEA) has organised the national-level virtual workshop on asset monetisation.

The workshop elaborated on the strategic context of core and non-core asset monetisation, along with a detailed discussion on the need for the modality of such monetisation.

The workshop was chaired by the finance minister and the Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of Union Territories.

**Quick Fact:** The Finance Minister of India is Nirmala Sitharaman

## **4) International Affairs**

### **China to launch e-health certificate for outbound Chinese travelers**

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will be launching the Chinese version of the electronic health certificate.

It will be rolled out for outbound Chinese travelers but it did not say anything for foreigners in China.

It will be available in two formats, digital and on paper, with the certificate holder's NAT and IgG antibody test results and vaccination status.

**Quick Fact:** The capital of China is Beijing

## **5) Science and Technology**

### **China inks MoU with Russia to jointly build Lunar Space Station**

China has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia to jointly construct a lunar space station that will be open to all countries.

The Lunar space station will be known as International Scientific Lunar Station (ISLS).

It will be strengthening research cooperation and promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes in the interest of all mankind.

**Quick Fact:** The Capital of Russia is Moscow

## **6) Defense**

### **India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK II commences in Ranikhet**

India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise title "DUSTLIK II" has commenced in Ranikhet in Uttarakhand.

This is the 2nd Edition of the annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies, the first edition of the exercise was in Uzbekistan in November 2019

45 soldiers each from Uzbekistan and the Indian Army are participating in the exercise, both contingents will be sharing their expertise and skills in the field of counter-terrorism operations.

**Quick Fact:** The Defence Minister of India is Rajnath Singh

## **15th March**

### **1) Summits & Conferences**

#### **PM Modi Virtually Attends First Quad Summit 2021**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, and Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga came together for the first QUAD Summit.

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue nations are planning to counter China by cooperating and pool their resources to fund new production technologies and development projects.

The meeting was held virtually during which the four participants exchanged views on different areas of cooperation like maintaining a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, Covid-19, etc.

**Quick Fact:** QUAD is an informal strategic forum comprising India, the United States, Japan, and Australia

## **2) Government Schemes**

### **IBM signs MoU with Uttarakhand Govt. to introduce STEM for Girls**

IBM has announced a collaboration with Samagra Shiksha Uttarakhand, the Government of Uttarakhand's education mission, to introduce the 'IBM STEM for Girls' program.

The program will be implemented in 130 secondary and higher secondary schools across five districts in the state, the collaboration is part of a 3 years program between IBM and the Uttarakhand govt.

The program will advance the skills and careers of close to 25,600 students in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields.

**Quick Fact:** The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand is Tirath Singh Rawat

## **3) National Affairs**

### **Dandi March to mark 75 Years of Independence in 2021**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off the 91st anniversary of Dandi March on March 12th in Ahmedabad to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

The Salt March, which took place from March to April in 1930, was an act of civil disobedience led by Mahatma Gandhi to protest the British rule in the country.

The event is kicked off from Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram and this event is also part of the State government's programme to mark "Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav".

**Quick Fact:** The Dandi March or Salt March led by Gandhi which included 78 people was 24 days march from 12th March to 5th April 1930.

## **4) Science and Technology**

### **World's Most Powerful Supercomputer Fugaku is ready for use**

The Japanese scientific research institute called Riken and Fujitsu started developing the "Fugaku" six years ago and it has been named after an alternative name for Mount Fuji.

This Supercomputer is fully ready and developed in Japan and is now available for research use.

The Research organisation for the Information Science and Technology (RIST) of Japan has selected some 74 projects which will use this computer in the financial year 2021.

**Quick Fact:** The Prime Minister of Japan is Yoshihide Suga

## **5) International Affairs**

### **World Kidney day observed globally on 11th March 2021**

World Kidney Day is observed every year globally on the second Thursday of March, that is on 11th March 2021.

The theme of 2021 World Kidney Day is “Living Well with Kidney Disease”.

World Kidney Day is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease.

**Quick Fact:** Kidney removes waste and extra fluid from your body and maintains a healthy balance of water, salts, and minerals.

## **6) Government Scheme**

### **Union Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi**

The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMNSS), as a single non-lapsable reserve fund,

This has been approved for the share of Health from proceeds of Health and Education Cess which is levied under the Section 163-b of Finance Act, 2007.

The other schemes that will use the reserve fund for Health in Public Account are National Health Mission, Ayushman Bharat- Health and Wellness Centres, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna, etc.

**Quick Fact:** The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare is Dr. Harsh Varshan

## **7) Sports**

### **Mithali Raj becomes 1st Indian woman cricketer to score 10,000 international runs**

The veteran Indian women's cricketer Mithali Raj has become the first Indian woman cricketer that scored 10,000 international runs in all cricket formats.

She has also become the second woman cricketer at the international level to complete 10,000 runs.

She achieved the milestone of 10,000 after she hit a boundary off Anne Bosch in the 28th over of Indian innings in the ongoing third ODI match against South Africa.

**Quick Fact:** Mithali is conferred with Arjuna Award and Padma Shri.

## **8) Person in News**

### **ARCIL appoints Pallav Mohapatra as MD & CEO**

Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd (ACRIL) has announced the appointment of Pallav Mohapatra as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director.

Prior to his appointment, Pallav Mohapatra was the MD & CEO of the Central Bank of India.

Pallav Mohapatra will succeed Vinayak Bahuguna who was CEO and MD for 5 years till June 2020.

**Quick Fact:** An asset reconstruction company is a financial institution that buys debtors of banks at the mutually agreed value and attempts to recover debts or associated securities.

## **16th March**

### **1) Polity**

#### **Privilege motion against Meghalaya chief minister by opposition**

When a minister violates the privileges of the parliament then any member of that house can initiate a privilege motion.

Article 105 of the Indian Constitution deals with the powers, privileges, and immunities of members of both the houses of the parliament whereas it is article 194 for States.

This motion is to censure the minister who has committed the breach.

**Quick Fact:** The present Meghalaya's Chief Minister is Conrad Sangma

### **2) Persons in News**

#### **Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair, the Maestro of Kathakali, passes away**

Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair was awarded Padma Bhushan in the year 2017 for his contribution to art.

His Lord Krishna and Kuchela Portrayal on stage always mesmerized the audience.

He was the founder of Bharatiya Natyakalalayam - First School of Dance in North Kerala.

**Quick Fact:** Kathakali is an ancient dance-drama of Kerala.

### 3) Awards

#### **Beyonce and Taylor Swift make history in Grammys 2021**

Taylor Swift became the first woman who won the album of the year three times

She won the album of the year-earlier for her albums "Fearless" and "1989"

Beyonce surpassed Alison Krauss to become the most decorated female in the history of Grammy

**Quick Fact:** Grammy award recognizes the achievements in the music industry and is presented by "The Recording Academy"

### 4) International Affairs

#### **Martial law imposed in parts of Myanmar city because of rise in the death toll**

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, an Independent group - more than 38 people were killed in firings, and dozens were injured.

The townships Hlaing Thar Yar Shwepyitha were placed under martial law.

The actual death toll may be higher than reported as police seized some bodies

**Quick Fact:** Naypyidaw also pronounced as Naypyitaw is the capital city of Myanmar.

### 5) Science And Technology

#### **Largest asteroid recorded expected to pass by Earth: NASA**

The name of the asteroid is 2001 F032 and is considered to be a potentially hazardous asteroid.

This Asteroid was discovered by the LINEAR (Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research) program in Socorro, New Mexico in 2001.

The study of this asteroid provides astronomers an opportunity to understand the size and albedo of the asteroid precisely.

**Quick Fact:** It is predicted that Asteroid 2001 F032 will be at its closest on 21st March

## 6) Environment

### **Commission for Air Quality Management dissolved by the Center**

The Air Quality Management was established by an ordinance in October 2020

An ordinance needs to be approved by the parliament within six weeks from its reconstitution and it needs to be approved by the Cabinet before placing it in the Parliament

The Cabinet has not taken any decision and the tenure of the body has expired. However, it can be revived by the Parliament during the ongoing session

The Air Quality Management Commission was headed by M.M. Kuttu - the former Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas secretary.

**Quick Fact:** Maximum life of an ordinance can be six months and six weeks.

## 7) International Relations

### **India and Pakistan's Commissioners to meet on 23rd and 24th March**

This will be the first meeting between India and Pakistan regarding the Indus river after two and half years.

The India Pakistan Permanent Commissions' last meeting was held in Lahore in 2018.

Pradeep Kumar Saxena is the commissioner from the Indian side and he will be attending the meeting.

**Quick Fact:** The Indus Waters Treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in the year 1960

## 8) Economy

### **Finance Ministry withdrew the valuation norms prescribed by the SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India) for Additional Tier (AT)- 1 perpetual bonds**

Additional Tier (AT) - 1 bonds are perpetual bonds with no expiry and banks issue these to meet their long-term capital requirements.

The Additional Tier (AT) - 1 bonds are listed and traded on the exchanges.

Investors of these bonds can return them to banks in return for money.

**Quick Fact:** Additional Tier (AT) - 1 bond is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India

**17th March 2021**

### **1) International Relations**

#### **Directions to Check Influx from Myanmar**

The states Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh have received directions from the Home Ministry to check the illegal influx from Myanmar.

India already has seen influx of Rohingyas who have migrated from Myanmar.

Refugee status to a foreigner cannot be granted by the state governments.

**Quick Fact:** India has not signed the United Nations Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol.

### **2) Environment**

#### **Preservation of Palamau Tiger Reserve**

The Government of Jharkhand has been in the process of convincing the central government not to lay the third Broad Gauge Rail Line in the core area of the Palamau Tiger Reserve.

The reserve is bounded by the Anuranga river on its north and the North Koel river on the west.

The Palamau Tiger Reserve spreads over three districts namely Latehaar, Garhwa, and Lohardaga.

**Quick Fact:** Palamau Tiger Reserve is located in the state of Jharkhand.

### **3) Art and Culture**

#### **Rakhigarhi to be Developed as Iconic Archaeological Site**

The Ministry of State of Culture and Tourism has recently said that Rakhigarhi will be developed as one of the five iconic archeological sites.

Union Budget 2020 has announced 5 iconic archeological sites which will be developed by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI).

Along with Rakhigarhi, the sites being developed under 5 iconic archeological sites are Shivsagar (Assam), Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh), Dholavira (Gujarat), and Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu).

**Quick Fact:** Rakhigarhi is one of the largest Harappan sites in India.

#### 4) Government Schemes

##### **National Ayush Mission (NAM) Information Provided**

The Ministry of Ayush's state minister has recently provided information regarding the National Ayush Mission (NAM)

It is a centrally sponsored scheme introduced for the development and promotion of the AYUSH system of medicine including Homeopathy

The establishment of Ayush Hospitals comes under respective State Governments and Union Territories as Public Health is a state subject

**Quick Fact:** National Ayush Mission (NAM) is the Ministry of Ayush's flagship scheme approved in 2014.

#### 5) Geography

##### **Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to reopen Baralacha Pass**

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) started work to reopen Baralacha Pass in Himachal Pradesh before schedule to restore connectivity to Leh in Ladakh

It is a high mountain pass in the Zaskar range

It acts as a water divide between river Bhaga and river Yamuna

**Quick Fact:** Border Roads Organisation (BRO) works under the Ministry of Defence

#### 6) Polity

##### **Supreme Court's Template for State Election Commissioners**

The Supreme Court said that election commissioners across the country should be independent and SECs are not persons holding office with the state government or central government.

This observation was given by the Supreme Court in a case related to the Municipal Elections in Goa.

The Government of Goa moved the Supreme Court against the High Court ruling which had quashed an order passed by the government of Goa determining the seat reservation in wards of Municipal Councils.

**Quick Fact:** State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor of the State

## **7) Environment**

### **Project RE-HAB To Reduce Human-Elephant Conflicts**

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched a unique project of creating bee fences to reduce the conflicts between human-elephant in the country.

The objective of this project is to reduce the attacks of elephants in human habitations using honey bees.

The KVIC launched project RE-HAB in four locations around Chelur village in Kodagu district and these locations are at the periphery of the Nagarhole National Park and Tiger Reserve.

**Quick Fact:** Project RE-HAB is a sub mission of the KVICs National Honey Mission

## **8) Polity**

### **Centre Vs Delhi**

The Central Home Ministry has moved a bill named Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the Lok Sabha.

The bill gives discretionary powers to the Lieutenant Governor even in matters where Delhi's Legislative Assembly is empowered to make laws.

**Quick Fact:** 69th Constitutional Amendment Act has given Delhi the present status of Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly.

## **18th March**

### **1) National Affairs**

#### **“Parliamentary Friendship Groups” in India**

Lok Sabha speaker, Om Birla, announced that the “India Friendship Group” has been introduced in both the Parliament Houses of Uzbek.

This news was announced while the Indian Lok Sabha Speaker was meeting the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan on March 16, 2021.

Setting up a Parliamentary Friendship Group for Uzbekistan in the Indian Parliament is under consideration.

**Quick Fact:** The capital of Uzbekistan is Tashkent.

## **2) National Affairs**

### **India's Capital tops as the "World's Most Polluted City"**

The 2020 World Air Quality Report presented by the Swiss Group "IQAir" mentions that New Delhi is the world's most polluted capital for the third year, straight in the year 2020.

They measure the air quality levels with the foundation of the concentration of lung-damaging particles carried by the air called PM 2.5.

This report was produced based on the data gathered from 106 countries across the world.

**Quick Fact:** As stated by the report, India has 35 of the most polluted cities out of world's top 50.

## **3) National Affairs**

### **"India Toy Fair, 2021", first ever of its kind, inaugurated**

PM Modi inaugurated a virtual "India Toy Fair, 2021" on February 27.

The main aim of this fair is to appeal to the toy manufacturers to create toys that are good for both the ecological and psychological environment.

It also aims at boosting conceptualization of novel toys and games based on Indian civilization, history, culture, mythology and ethos.

**Quick Fact:** Most toys made in India are made out of natural and eco-friendly materials.

## **4) Important Days**

### **India's National Vaccination Day: March 16, 2021**

The country started its first COVID-19 vaccine immunization program this year on March 16, 2021.

The main purpose behind the observation of this day is to make people aware about the importance of eradicating diseases like Polio from the world by arming against it.

India started its first Polio Pulse Program in 1995 when the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given.

**Quick Fact:** The National Vaccination Day is also called the National Immunization Day.

## **5) Entertainment News**

## **Announcement of the 63rd edition of the Annual Grammy Awards**

The ceremony was held on March 14, 2021 in Los Angeles.

The different categories of awards were presented to the winners of the eligibility year starting from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020.

These sets of awards are presented to recognize achievements in the American Music Industry by the Recording Academy.

**Quick Fact:** 9 nominations and the highest number of awards, which is four, were presented to Beyonce.

## **19th March**

### **1) India and the World**

#### **Virtual Summit 2021: India-Finland**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland Ms Sanna Marin participated in a Virtual Summit held on March 16, 2021.

This Summit was held to discuss bilateral issues along with other regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest such as education, investment, emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence, innovation, quantum computing and 5G/6G.

Both national leaders expressed their views on the probability for both Finland and India to team-up in undertaking developmental activities in Africa.

**Quick Fact:** Currency of Finland: Euro; Capital city: Helsinki

### **2) International Affairs**

#### **International Solar Alliance joined by Italy**

Italy signed a framework agreement with India on March 17, 2021 to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA), as informed by the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

The amendment to the framework agreement had opened the membership in the Solar Alliance to all the members of the United Nations.

ISA is a treaty-based intergovernmental alliance comprising 121 countries. The establishment of the alliance was initiated by India.

**Quick Fact:** The ISA Framework Agreement was signed by Ambassador of Italy, Vincenzo De Luca.

### 3) National News

#### **India becomes the 5th country in the world to commission a Nuclear Missile Tracking Vessel**

INS Dhruv is one of the largest warships to be built at an Indian Yard.

After China, US, Russia and France, India becomes the 5th country to possess such a tracking vessel.

It is rumored to monitor the Indian Ocean bed.

**Quick Fact:** The INS Dhruv was constructed at Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, Visakhapatnam at a cost of INR 275 crore under the Make in India initiative.

### 4) National News

#### **World's Highest Railway Bridge: Chenab Bridge, Jammu & Kashmir**

By connecting two ends of the main 'arch' of the Chenab Bridge, Indian Railways have got this bridge the title of World's Highest Railway Bridge.

This bridge is being built over the Chenab river and is 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France and is 1.315 kms long.

Three agencies with extensive experience in building rail lines are involved in this project. They are IRCON, KRCL and Northern Railway.

**Quick Fact:** This bridge is contracted to be built by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL) at a cost of INR 12000 Crores.

### 5) National News

#### **Beating Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos, Gautam Adani becomes world's Biggest Wealth Gainer in 2021**

As per the recent Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Adani Group's chairman, Gautam Adani was pronounced as the biggest wealth gainer in the world in 2021. He was followed by Google co-founder Larry Page.

He is currently the 26th richest person in the world with USD 50 billion.

The shares of some of Adani group's conglomerate have doubled while others have gained 79% or more.

**Quick Fact:** Jeff Bezos is the founder of Amazon and Elon Musk is the CEO of Tesla.

## 6) Miscellaneous

### **India's Power Elite: Caste, Class and Cultural Revolution, to be released in April 2021**

Written by Sanjaya Baru, India's Power Elite is all set to be released in April by Penguin Random House India.

This book exposes the emerging dynamics of political, cultural and economical power in contemporary India.

It reveals a thorough analysis done to disclose the fault lines and power struggles dominating the various powers in our country's institutions.

**Quick Fact:** Sanjaya Baru served as secretary-general of FICCI from september 2017 to April 2018. The Accidental Prime Minister is one of his most famous books.

## 7) Sports Affairs

### **India's first Fencer to qualify for Olympics: Bhawani Devi**

Through the Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) method, Tamil Nadu's Chandalava Anandha Bhawani Devi, aged 27, becomes the first fencer to qualify for Olympics.

She bagged a place for the Tokyo Olympics at the World Cup in Hungary.

According to Press Trust of India, she occupies one of the available two slots based on her 45th ranking.

**Quick Fact:** She has been trying for the Olympics since 2012. Sagar Lagu is her trainer.

## 8) International News

**European Union decides to adopt the 'Sinatra Doctrine' to counter China's growing influence in Europe**

In light of China's increasing aggressiveness to undermine European unity through a 'divide and rule' policy continues, the CEE member countries have decided to accept their own way to deal with the increasing threat of Beijing's influence, known as the 'Sinatra Doctrine'.

The doctrine will mainly be based on two pillars: continuation of cooperation with China in regard to addressing global challenges and strengthening EU's sovereignty by protecting its tech sectors.

The contradiction between the ultimate outcome and Beijing's economic promises has been a major reason for the resentment that the CEE member countries share with China.

**Quick Fact:** The name 'Sinatra Doctrine' was taken from the song My Way which was popularized by Frank Sinatra.

## **20th March**

### **1) Government Schemes**

#### **Mukhya Mantri Chiranjeevi Yojana to be launched on May 1st, 2021**

The long awaited Universal Health Scheme (UHS) called "Mukhya Mantri Chiranjeevi Yojana" will be launched on May 1, 2021.

Cashless health services are to be provided to all the families in Rajasthan. The families will get health services up to Rs 5 lakh.

This scheme was announced under examined circumstances to reinforce the health infrastructure in Rajasthan.

**Quick fact:** The Chief Minister of Rajasthan is Ashok Gehlot.

### **2) International News**

#### **Euthanasia now made legal in Spain**

Votes were made in favour of legalising the Euthanasia in the Parliament of Spain on March 18, 2021.

With this, the country has now become one of those few nations that allow the seriously injured or deathly-ill patients to end their life.

The Spanish legislation will now allow passive euthanasia in which the medical staff will intentionally end a life to relieve the suffering. This will be done by stopping the life serving medical treatment. The law has also allowed assisted suicide in which the patient will carry out the procedure of ending life themselves.

**Quick Fact:** Legalising the euthanasia was a high priority for Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's government due to pressurized high profile cases like that of Ramon Sampedro whose situation worsened while shooting for an oscar-winning film in 2004.

### 3) India and the World

#### An Artificial Intelligence initiative launched by India-US

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) made an announcement regarding the 'US India Artificial Intelligence Initiative launch by the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum's (IUSSTF).

This initiative will mainly focus on the priority critical areas for both nations for the cooperation of Artificial Intelligence.

USIAI will help to bring together the stakeholders from the United States and India to create harmonies which are bound to help in addressing the challenges with respect to science, technology and society.

**Quick Fact:** The India-US co-chairpersons at the IUSSTF are Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Varshney (India) and Mr. John Speaks (US).

### 4) India and the World

#### Women Helpline Centres to be set up soon in foreign countries by the Government

The central government will soon initiate women helpline centres across foreign countries which will look after the troubled overseas residents. This has been exhibited to ensure safety and security of Indian women across the world.

The union minister, Smriti Irani, also mentioned that the government has associated with NIMHANS for the mental health outreach of the children and has launched project SAMVAD. This project is providing psychological help to the children in mental pain.

The legalists have also joined hands with NALSA and the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure fair compensation to victims.

**Quick Fact:** NIMHANS is "National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences" located in Bengaluru. It is the apex centre of mental health and neuroscience education and has been ranked as the 4th best medical institute across India.

## 5) Important Days

### World Sleep Day 2021

It is celebrated on Friday each year before Spring Vernal Equinox. This year it falls on 19 March.

This day is observed to spread awareness about the importance of regular sleep for achieving an ideal quality of life and improving health all over the world. World Sleep Day is to recall various issues related to sleep, including medicine, education, social aspects, and driving.

The World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society organised the World Sleep Day with the motive to reduce the hardships of the problems related to sleep in society via better prevention and management of sleep disorders.

**Quick Fact:** Since 2008, World Sleep Day first co-chairs were Liborio Parrino, MD, Associate Professor of Neurology at Parma University, Italy, and Antonio Culebras, MD, Professor of Neurology, Upstate Medical University, and Consultant, The Sleep Center, Community General Hospital, Syracuse, New York, USA.

## 6) India and the World

### Joint commission to be established between India and Kuwait to boost ties

The Joint Commission will build a foundation for strengthening ties in the sectors such as trade, energy, investment, information technology, and manpower and labour.

The decision commission forming was taken during a ministerial meet between the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah who has been on a visit to India.

One of the major trading partners of Kuwait is India. There are significant opportunities that will further strengthen and will deepen ties in sectors such as health, trade, energy, science and technology, defence and security, culture, cybersecurity, IT, tourism, and education.

**Quick Fact:** The Prime Minister of Kuwait is Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

## 7) National News

### India among the highest adaptors of Digital Tech during the Pandemic

According to EY survey, India has witnessed the highest adoption of digital technologies by the health & human services during the time when covid-19 pandemic expedited the adoption of digital solutions.

During the survey it was found that 74% of the respondents across India reported that digital technologies and data solutions have increased the productivity of the staff. Further, 75% of the respondents reported that digital solutions are effective in delivering the better outcomes for patients and other service users.

The survey highlights that phone and video consultations have observed the greatest uptake across all the technology solutions.

**Quick Fact:** The survey was conducted on more than 2000 global HHS Professionals in India, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Italy, the United States and the United Kingdom.

## **8) National News**

### **Vehicle scrapping policy introduced to phase out unfit and polluting vehicles**

Under the policy, private vehicles will be de-registered after 20 years if found unfit, while commercial vehicles will be de-registered after 15 years in case of failure to meet the fitness requirement.

The key aim is to phase out vehicles that are older than 15 or 20 years to reduce urban pollution levels.

The recyclable materials like plastic, steel and copper could be reused and thus reduce costs of vehicles. The scrapping of old vehicles will also uplift vehicle sales in the country, which will in turn provide a boost to the automobile industry.

**Quick Fact:** India's Transport Minister is Nitin Gadkari.

## **22nd March**

### **1) Important Days**

#### **20 March: World Sparrow Day**

To raise awareness about the threats to the populations of the House Sparrow in particular and other common birds of the urban environment, World Sparrow Day is celebrated every year on March 20.

This day was instigated by the Nature Forever Society of India along with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and several other national and international organisations across the world.

The theme of 2021 World Sparrow Day was "I LOVE Sparrows".

**Quick Fact:** The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated in 2010.

## **2) International News**

### **Samia Suluhu Hassan sworn in as Tanzania's first woman President**

Samia Suluhu Hassan vowed to become the sixth President of Tanzania, becoming the first female leader of the East African country.

Before taking charge as President she was the Vice-President of Tanzania, also being the first female vice-president of the country, since November 2015.

The 61-year-old Hassan inherited the presidency, following the death of previous President John Magufuli, due to a heart condition. She will finish Magufuli's second five-year term, which will run until 2025.

**Quick Fact:** The capital of Tanzania is Dodoma.

## **3) National News**

### **India's economy predicted to grow at 12% in calendar year 2021 by Moody's Analytics**

Moody's Analytics has forecasted the Indian economy to grow by 12 percent in the Calendar Year 2021.

For 2020, the real GDP was projected to come down by 7.1 per cent by Moody's.

This forecast is correspondent to real GDP, in lay-man terms, growing by 4.4 per cent above pre-COVID-19 levels (as of March 2020) by the end of 2021, or uniformly, by 5.7 per cent above the GDP level in December 2020 by the end of 2021.

**Quick Fact:** Moody's is headquartered in New York, United States and the President & CEO of Moody's is Raymond W. McDaniel, Jr.

## **4) Important Days**

### **International Day of Happiness, 2021**

March 20 is celebrated as International Day of Happiness. It is designated by the United Nations and is dedicated to the 'importance of happiness in people's life'.

The World Happiness Report suggests that the 'unhappiest cities' are mostly located in underdeveloped countries and have experienced war (Kabul in Afghanistan, Sanaa in Yemen), armed conflict (Gaza in Palestine), civil war (Juba in South Sudan, Bangui in the Central African Republic), political instability (Cairo in Egypt) or devastating natural catastrophes (Port-au-Prince in Haiti).

Since 2013, the UN has been marking the International Day of Happiness. The United Nations General Assembly, in a resolution, on 12 July 2012, proclaimed 20 March the International Day of Happiness.

**Quick Fact:** Helsinki, the capital of Finland has been surveyed to be the happiest city in the world, as suggested in a report in 2020.

## 5) International News

### Nomination as NASA administrator: Bill Nelson

A former astronaut who served as a US Senator from Florida from 2001 to 2019, Bill Nelson has spent almost four decades serving the public office.

Joe Biden, President of the UN, announced on March 19, 2021 that he proposes to put forward Bill Nelson's name to serve as the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Bill Nelson began his political career by serving in the Florida House of Representatives from 1972 to 1978. He later served in the US House of Representatives from 1979 to 1991.

**Quick Fact:** Bill Nelson had served in the US Army Reserve during the Vietnam War before entering politics.

## 23rd March

### 1) Important Day

March 22, 2021 is marked as an important day for several events: Find below

| Name of the Day observed                                       | Theme of 2021                    | Starting year      |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | Youth standing up against racism | 1979, South Africa |

|                              |   |                      |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| International Day of Forests | Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being | 2012, United Nations |
| World Down Syndrome          | We Decide.  | 2012, United Nations |

## 2) Important Day

### World Water Day: March 22nd

World Water Day is observed to celebrate water and raise awareness about the 2.2 billion people living without any access to pure and safe water across the world. All over the world, 22nd March is a day to spread consciousness to take action towards tackling the global water crisis.

The theme of World Water Day 2021 was “Valuing water”. The worth of water is much more than its productive value. It has a vast and complex value for our households, food, culture, health, education, economics and the integrity of our natural environment.

In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution which stated 22nd March each year to be observed as World Day for Water.

**Quick Fact:** The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945. The current Secretary-General of the United Nations is Antonio Guterres.

## 3) Important Day

### March 20: UN French Language Day

The UN French Language Day was made official by the UN's Department of Public Information in 2010, to observe multilingualism and cultural diversity. With this, the promotion of equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization was the motive.

March 20 was chosen to celebrate the French language since it coincides with the 40th anniversary of the International Organization of La Francophonie, acting for countries and regions where French is a traditional language.

The French Language Day's date was chosen connotatively in reference to March 20, 1970, which flags the formation of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT), which became the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF).

**Quick Fact:** The President of France is Emmanuel Macron and the Prime minister is Jean Castex. The Capital city is Paris.

## 4) Sports News

**ISSF World Cup: First gold for India won by Yashaswini**

Yashaswini Deswal won the first gold medal for India in the Women's 10M Air Pistol final of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun.

She gathered 238.8 points to lead in her category. A second Indian shooter, Manu Bhaker, won a silver medal with 236.7 points.

World's number one shooter, Divyansh Singh Panwar bagged the bronze medal in 10m Air Rifle (men's category) and opened India's medal account in the competition.

**Quick Fact:** The ISSF Presidency is held by Mr. Vladimir Lisin, a Russian steel tycoon and President of the European Shooting Federation, since the 30th of November 2018. The ISSF headquarters is in Munich, Germany.

**5) Entertainment News****M Veerappa Moily, Arundhati Subramaniam named among 20 winners in the Sahitya Akademi Awards, 2020**

M Veerappa Moily, senior Congress leader, was one among the 20 winners for his epic poetry titled 'Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam' in Kannada.

India's National Academy of Letters, Sahitya Akademi, declared the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2020 on March 12, 2021. The Sahitya Akademi Award is a literary honour in India. It is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the country.

Seven books of poetry, four novels, five short stories, two plays and one each of memoirs and epic poetry won the award this year in 20 Indian languages, as per the official press release.

**Quick Fact:** The Sahitya Akademi is an autonomous body, which comes under the Ministry of Culture. It hosts the largest library of multilingual books in India.

**6) International Affairs****Dutch PM Mark Rutte becomes EU's third-longest serving leader with a fourth consecutive victory**

The VVD party won for the fourth consecutive time with 35 seats in the parliament. PM Mark Rutte vowed to spend his fourth term in renovating the country after the coronavirus pandemic.

Rutte is considered as one of Europe's longest-serving leaders after spending ten years in service to the nation.

The Netherlands has recorded over 1.1 million COVID-19 cases and 16,000 deaths. The country is following strict health measures including curfew and closure of bars and restaurants.

**Quick Fact:** The Netherlands is a monarchy, so this country doesn't have a president. This country has a king as the head of the state and a prime minister as the head of the government.

## 7) National news

### **Launch of the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign, by PM Narendra Modi**

This campaign is implemented from March 22 to November 30 during the pre-monsoon and the monsoon period in the country.

PM Modi on March 22, 2021, launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign at 12.30 pm via a video conference. It was launched on World Water Day, celebrated on March 22 every year.

The Jal Shakti campaign is to be implemented across India, in both the rural and the urban areas. The theme of this campaign is 'Catch the rain, where it falls when it falls.'

**Quick Fact:** This project also focuses on covering the way for more knitting of the river projects to ensure that the scarcity of water does not become a stop in the country's development.

## 8) Regional Affairs

### **'SAAMAR' campaign launched by the Jharkhand Government to fight malnutrition**

Jharkhand's government has put forward a drive called SAAMAR to intercept malnutrition in the state. SAAMAR stands for Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction. The campaign is focused on bringing together different departments to identify anaemic women and malnourished children to deal with the problem in this state.

This campaign has been launched with a target of 1000 days. Regular surveys will be conducted to track the progress.

SAAMAR also tries to target Primarily Vulnerable Tribal Groups. Mentioning that there is no research-based information available on their food and nutritional habits, a thorough research will be initiated and it suggests companionships on the nutritional behaviour of these groups for successful execution.

**Quick Fact:** The Chief Minister of Jharkhand is Hemant Soren and the Governor is Shrimati Droupadi Murmu.

## 24th March

### 1) Important Days

#### International World Meteorological Day: March 23

The World Meteorological Day is celebrated every year on 23 March to mark the date of the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization on 23 March 1950.

This day also highlights the contribution that the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services make to the safety and well-being of the society.

This year's theme is "The ocean, our climate and weather" celebrates WMO's focus in connecting the ocean, climate and weather within the Earth System. It also marks the starting year of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

**Quick Fact:** World Meteorological Organization Head is Petteri Taalas. It is an intergovernmental organization with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The World Meteorological Organization has a membership of 191 member states and territories.

### 2) Important Days

#### Shaheed Diwas: 23rd March

Every year, March 23 is observed as Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day) to pay tribute on the death anniversary of the freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, who laid their lives for the freedom of India.

It was on March 23 in 1931, in Lahore (Pakistan), that these three were hanged to death for assassinating John Saunders, a British police officer in 1928. They had mistaken him for British police superintendent James Scott, who had ordered lathi-charge, which eventually led to the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.

Shaheed Diwas is observed on March 23 to honour the sacrifice of three extraordinary freedom fighters of India. Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar were hanged to death by the Britishers. They came forward at a very young age and fought bravely for the independence of India. They went on to become an inspiration to the youth of the country.

**Quick Fact:** Also, 30 January is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

### 3) National News

#### Indian armed forces, 4th strongest in the world

China has the strongest military force in the world while India stands at number four, according to a study released by defence website Military Direct.

China has the strongest military in the world, scoring 82 out of 100 points in the index. The USA, despite their enormous military budgets, comes in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India at 61 and then France with 58. The U.K. just about makes the Top 10, coming in 9th place with a score of 43.

The study said “ultimate military strength index” was calculated after taking into consideration various factors including budgets, number of inactive and active military personnel, total air, sea, land and nuclear resources, average salaries, and weight of equipment.

#### Quick Fact:

### 4) International News

#### Russia successfully launches 38 satellites for 18 countries

Russia has successfully launched 38 foreign satellites for the 18 countries into orbit after the successful launch from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Though, the launch was delayed due to the technical issues.

The launch of 38 satellites in one go by Russia is of great significance in light that the Russian Space Sector is lagging behind ever since the fall of Soviet Union. It also lagged behind the international competitors because of several corruption scandals and the technological stagnation.

In the year 2018, Russia had launched a Soyuz rocket carrying the Russian cosmonaut and a NASA astronaut. But this mission failed mid-flight and the crew had to carry out the emergency landing.

#### Quick Fact:

### 5) International News

#### ISRO Demonstrates Free Space Quantum Communication

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced on March 22, 2021 that it has successfully demonstrated its free-space Quantum Communication for a distance of 300 metres for the first time in India. It was demonstrated at the Space Applications Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad in between the two line-of-sight buildings within its campus.

Several numbers of the key technologies were indigenously developed to achieve this major feat. This space quantum communication includes the use of indigenously developed NAVIC receiver for the time synchronisation in between the transmitter and receiver modules. It also includes a gimbal mechanism system instead of the bulky large-aperture telescopes for the optical alignment of the system.

ISRO's demonstration of the Free Space Quantum Communication includes the live video conferencing using the quantum-key-encrypted signals. It is a major milestone to achieve the unconditionally secured satellite data communication using the quantum technologies.

**Quick Fact:** Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) or NAVIC  
NAVIC is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system which provides the accurate real-time positioning and timing services.

## 25th March

### 1) Important Days

#### World Tuberculosis Day: March 24th

World Tuberculosis Day is observed to spread awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.

The theme of World TB Day 2021 was 'The Clock is Ticking'. It conveys the sense that the world is running out of time to act on the commitments to end TB made by global leaders.

Tuberculosis (TB) is a deadly and infectious disease that mainly affects the lungs.

**Quick Fact:** The Director general of WHO is Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

### 2) National News

#### India's First Free-Space Quantum Communication demonstrated by ISRO

The ISRO demonstrated a free-space Quantum Communication over a distance of 300 metres.

The demonstration included a live video conference using quantum-key-encrypted signals.

This is a major milestone achievement for secured satellite data-communication using quantum technologies.

**Quick Fact:** The Chairman of ISRO is K.Sivan.

### **3) National News**

#### **Finance Bill 2021 passed by the parliament**

This bill seeks to bring financial proposals of the central government in effect for the financial year 2021-22.

It was passed by the lower house of the Parliament with several amendments.

It suggests a few changes in the proposals which were made in the union budget 2021 with the objective of boosting the ease of doing business and easing compliance burden.

**Quick Fact:** India's Finance Minister is Nirmala Sitharaman.

### **4) National News**

#### **Inauguration of the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak**

The Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak was inaugurated in New Delhi by the Education Minister on March 23, 2021.

He also paid a tribute to Bhagat Singh in the chamber located in the basement of Viceregal Lodge of Delhi University where Bhagat Singh was imprisoned.

On the occasion, an existing collection of books being converted into "Shaheed Smriti Pustakalaya" was made available to the students and teachers of Delhi university.

**Quick Fact:** The Education Minister of India is Ramesh Pokhriyal.

### **5) National News**

#### **Taking charge as the next Chief Justice of India is Justice NV Ramana**

He is presently the senior-most judge in the Supreme Court of India.

Chief Justice of India (CJI), SA Bobde has recommended to appoint Justice NV Ramana as the next Chief Justice of India.

The current CJI is slated to retire from the position. Therefore, it is likely that Justice N V Ramana will take over as the 48th Chief Justice of India.

**Quick Fact:** He was previously serving as the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court and acting Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court.

## **6) International News**

### **International Day for the Right to the Truth**

This day is observed on 24th March every year to pay tribute to “Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero” who was murdered on 24 March 1980.

The International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims aims to honour the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations.

It also aims to promote the importance of the right to truth and justice.

**Quick Fact:** Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez was a prelate of the Catholic Church in El Salvador.

## **7) Sports News**

### **Para Shooting World Cup 2021: India's Singhraj wins gold**

Indian para-athlete Singhraj won the gold medal in the 2021 Para Shooting World Cup at Al Ain in the UAE.

Singhraj pipped Rio 2016 bronze medallist Ibragimov by a thin margin of 2.8 points. The final score read 236.8-234

With this, India has moved to third place in the medals table. India has now two medals on its list, one gold and one bronze.

**Quick Fact:** Singhraj was a medalist at the World Championships in Sydney, 2019.

## **8) Finance News**

### **Certified E-Tendering Portal 'PRANIT' launched by POWERGRID**

This portal will involve less paperwork and allow ease of operation to make the tendering process more transparent.

The portal has been certified by Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate (STQC), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, GoI.

POWERGRID is the only organization in India to have an e-procurement solution on SAP Supplier Relationship Management (SRM).

**Quick Fact:** Power Grid Corporation of India was founded on 23 October 1989 and its headquarters are in Gurgaon, India.

## 26th March

### 1) Economy

#### **Indian Overseas Bank floats the 'IOB Trendy' savings account**

IOB Trendy, a savings account customised for the growing millennials in the country by keeping their banking preferences in mind.

To open an IOB Trendy account, a customer needs to be within the age bracket of 21 – 38 years.

IOB Trendy customers need to maintain a daily minimum balance of ₹10,000 or a daily minimum balance of ₹5,000 and a digital turnover of a minimum of ₹20,000 per month.

**Quick Fact:** CEO of Indian Overseas Bank is Partha Pratim Sengupta and its headquarters are located in Chennai

### 2) Miscellaneous

#### **'My Experiments with Silence' authored by actor Samir Soni**

The book "My Experiments with Silence" is authored by Samir Soni on anxiety and self-discovery.

This book aims to be a personal account of his dialogues with himself during his growing-up years in Delhi, his stint at Wall Street and his time in Bollywood.

It will be published by OM Books International. Soni mentioned that his book will be an "ode to anyone who has fought or is fighting their inner demons".

**Quick Fact:** This is a self-help book written after the pandemic lockdown of COVID-19, on self-discovery.

### 3) International News

#### **Indian-American Doctor Vivek Murthy designated as US Surgeon General**

The US Senate has voted to confirm the appointment of Dr. Vivek Murthy as the Surgeon General under US President Biden's administration.

The 43-year-old Dr Murthy would occupy the position of America's Surgeon General for the second time.

Prior to this, Dr Murthy was appointed as surgeon general under the Obama administration in 2011 but was fired by former President Trump in 2017.

**Quick Fact:** Murthy is the first surgeon general of Indian descent.

#### **4) Important Days**

##### **International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members**

The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed annually on 25 March by the United Nations.

The day is marked each year on the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, a former journalist who was abducted by an armed gunman in 1985.

This is a day to muster action, demand justice and strengthen the resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers in the non-governmental community and the press.

**Quick Fact:** Alec Collett's body was found in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley in 2009.

#### **5) Important Days**

##### **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade**

This day offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system.

International Day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today.

2021 Theme: "Ending Slavery's Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice"

**Quick Fact:** United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA. Mr Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### **6) India and the World**

##### **India ranks 40th on International Intellectual Property Index**

India ranked 40 among 53 global economies on the latest annual edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index released.

The Index evaluates Intellectual Property rights in 53 global economies from patent and copyright policies to materialistic IP assets and confirmation of international treaties.

The 2021 Index illustrates that economies with the most effective IP frameworks are more likely to achieve the socio-economic benefits needed to combat COVID-19.

**Quick Fact:** World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland and its head is Daren Tang.

## **7) International News**

### **World's first Ship Tunnel to be built in Norway**

The Norwegian Coastal Administration has received the green signal to start working on the construction of the world's first tunnel, being built exclusively for ships.

The tunnel is dubbed as "Stad Ship Tunnel" and would be built under the mountainous Stadhavet peninsula in northwestern Norway.

The construction would begin in 2022 and would take three to four years to complete.

**Quick Fact:** Norway Currency is Norwegian krone and the capital is Oslo. The Prime Minister of Norway is Erna Solberg.

## **8) Awards**

### **Hindi Writer Prof. Sharad Pagare Selected for Vyas Samman 2020**

Well known Hindi writer, Prof. Sharad Pagare will be conversed with the prestigious Vyas Samman – 2020.

He will be awarded the 31st Vyas Samman for his novel "Patliputru Ki Samragi".

It carries an award of four lakh rupees along with a citation and plaque.

**Quick Fact:** The Vyas Samman is a literary award in India, first awarded in 1991. It is awarded annually by the K.K. Birla Foundation.

**27th March**

## **1) International Affairs**

### **Bereavement leave law for miscarriages, stillbirths passed by the New Zealand government**

The Parliament of New Zealand unanimously approved on giving couples, who have suffered a miscarriage or stillbirth, three days of paid leave.

New Zealand has become the second country in the world to provide such benefits, as India is the only other country with such a legislation.

The leave provisions will apply to the mothers, their partners as well as to those parents who have been planning to have a child through surrogacy and adoption.

**Quick Fact:** The MP of the Labour Party is Ginny Anderson, who had initiated this bill of New Zealand.

## 2) Awards

### **‘Maharashtra Bhushan’ presented to Asha Bhosle**

Legendary singer Asha Bhosle will be honoured with the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award for the year 2020.

This is an award, instituted in 1996 by the State government to recognise distinguished work and achievements of eminent persons from the State, representing different walks of life.

The first Maharashtra Bhushan awardee was Marathi writer P.L. Deshpande and the last winner of this award was historian Babasaheb Purandare who got it for the year 2015.

**Quick Fact:** The Governor of Maharashtra is Bhagat Singh Koshiyari.

## 3) National Affairs

### **Sanjeev Kumar appointed as Chairman of Airports Authority of India**

IAS Sanjeev Kumar has been appointed as Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Kumar is a 1993-batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved his appointment.

**Quick Fact:** The Headquarters of Airports Authority of India is in New Delhi. The Airports Authority of India was founded on 1 April, 1995.

## 4) National Affairs

### **Indian Coast Guard Ship ‘Vajra’ stationed to the Indian Coast Guard**

L&T-built Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Vajra was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) by General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Defence Staff, at Chennai.

ICGS Vajra is the sixth vessel in the series of seven OPVs being built by L&T under a Ministry of Defence contract signed in the year 2015.

OPVs are long-range surface ships, capable of operation in maritime zones of India, including island territories with helicopter operation capabilities.

**Quick Fact:** The Director-General of Indian Coast Guard is Krishnaswamy Natarajan.

## 5) Regional Affairs

### Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurates Kurnool Airport in Andhra Pradesh

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Civil Aviation, Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated the Kurnool Airport, in Andhra Pradesh virtually.

The flight operations at Kurnool airport will begin on 28 March 2021. This airport has been developed under the Regional Connectivity Scheme, Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN).

Kurnool is the 6th airport in Andhra Pradesh to become functional after Kadapa, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Rajahmundry & Vijayawada.

**Quick Fact:** The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and the Governor is Biswa Bhushan Harichandan.

## 6) National Affairs

### Atish Chandra appointed as CMD of Food Corporation of India

Atish Chandra has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.

Mr Chandra, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, is currently the Joint Secretary of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.

There are a total of 22 bureaucrats who have been appointed to different ministries as part of Thursday's reshuffle.

**Quick Fact:** Food Corporation of India was founded on 14 January 1965 and is headquartered in New Delhi.

## 7) National Affairs

### Saurabh Garg appointed as new CEO of UIDAI

Senior bureaucrat, Saurabh Garg has been appointed as the CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle.

Garg at present, is serving in his corps state, Odisha. He is a 1991 batch IAS officer.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Mr Garg as the CEO, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry.

**Quick Fact:** UIDAI is Headquartered in New Delhi

## **8) Regional News**

### **Mobile water from air kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre: Vizag**

The Hyderabad-based startup, Maithri Aquatech has set up the world's first mobile water-from-air kiosk and 'Water Knowledge Centre' in the smart city of Visakhapatnam.

This initiative is supported by Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and project SEWAH.

The kiosk is to provide clean potable water from the air by making use of Maithri Aquatech's Meghdoot solution with no dependency on groundwater and other surface water resources.

**Quick Fact:** Project SEWAH (Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health) is an alliance between USAID and SWN (Safe Water Network).

## **30th March**

### **1) International News**

#### **Republic of Congo President Sassou Nguesso wins election**

The longtime president of the Republic of Congo, Sassou Nguesso is set for another five-year term after getting over 88% of the vote.

The election day was marred by the death of his main opponent, Guy Brice Parfait Kolelas.

The African leader is one of the world's longest-serving presidents, earning him the nickname 'emperor'. He has led Congo for a total of 36 years.

**Quick Fact:** Republic of Congo Capital: Brazzaville; Republic of Congo Currency: franc.

### **2) Important Days**

#### **Bangladesh celebrates 50 years of independence**

Bangladesh celebrates 50 years of its Independence and National Day on 26 March.

The fight for independence can be traced back to Britain's colonial rule of the Indian subcontinent and the new nations that were carved out after its end in 1947.

On December 16, 1971, Pakistan forces surrendered and Bangladesh celebrated its freedom.

**Quick Fact:** The Prime Minister of Bangladesh is Sheikh Hasina and the Capital is Dhaka. The Currency is Taka.

### 3) Important Days

#### **World Theatre Day: 27 March**

World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), France.

It is celebrated annually on the 27th March by ITI Centres and the international theatre community.

The author of the Message of World Theatre Day 2021 is Helen MIRREN, United Kingdom.

**Quick Fact:** The first World Theatre Day Message was written by Jean Cocteau in 1962.

### 4) National News

#### **Anish Shah to take over as M&M's Managing Director, CEO**

Anish Shah who is set to take over as the managing director and CEO of Mahindra and Mahindra will become the first professional executive to oversee the entire business of the \$19.4 billion Mahindra Group.

Pawan Goenka will retire as MD and CEO and member of the board effective April 2.

Group chairman Anand Mahindra will be taking on a non-executive role.

**Quick Fact:** Rajesh Jejurikar is the executive director at M&M

### 5) Awards

#### **Carmen Maria Machado wins The Rathbones Folio Prize 2021**

'In The Dream House: A Memoir' by Carmen Maria Machado Wins The Rathbones Folio Prize 2021.

In the 2019 book, the author outlines her experiences in a same-sex relationship with her former partner, and the abuse she was subjected to.

It is at once an inventive and radical work, a true testimony to her narrative gift.

**Quick Fact:** It is the only prize in which all the books considered for the prize are selected and judged by an academy of peers, though there are three main judges.

### 6) World Affairs

## **Earth Hour 2021: 27 March**

The Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the last Saturday of March month to show support for the fight against climate change and commitment towards a better planet. Earth Hour 2021 is being marked on March 27, 2021.

The Earth Hour 2021 theme will focus on “Climate Change to Save Earth.”

The Day is a worldwide movement organized by the WWF, encouraging individuals, communities, corporates, and households to turn off their lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**Quick Fact:** World Wide Fund Headquarters is at Gland, Switzerland. World Wide Fund President and CEO is Carter Roberts.

### **7) India and the world**

#### **India conducts first-ever joint patrol in Madagascar EEZ**

In the first, the navies of India and Madagascar undertook joint patrolling of Madagascar's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and also conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX).

Indian Naval Ship INS Shardul made a port call at Antsiranana, Madagascar as part of the First Training Squadron's (1TS) Overseas Deployment.

INS Shardul and Malagasy Navy ship MNS Trozona carried out a Passage Exercise (PASSEX).

**Quick Fact:** The capital of Madagascar is Antananarivo and the President is Andry Rajoelina.

### **8) National Affairs**

#### **Rahi Sarnobat, Chinky Yadav and Manu Bhaker clinch Gold at ISSF Shooting World Cup**

In Shooting, India won gold in the women's 25m Pistol Team event at the ISSF World Cup in Delhi.

India beat Poland in the final to win the country's 10th gold.

The Indian women's team of Rahi Sarnobat, Chinky Yadav and Manu Bhaker beat Poland's Joanna Iwona Wawrzonowska, Julita Borek and Agnieszka Korejwo.

**Quick Fact:** Rajeev Bhatia is the secretary of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

**31st March**

**1) India and the World**

**International Ranger Award won by Indian range officer, Mahinder Giri**

Mahinder Giri, range officer of Rajaji Tiger Reserve is the only ranger from Asia to win the Award for his contribution.

The award has been announced for 10 professionals across the world by the IUCN and the WCPA.

These awards aim to highlight and felicitate the extraordinary work that rangers do in protected and conserved areas worldwide.

**Quick Fact:** The International Ranger Federation, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Conservation Allies were created in 2020 in collaboration with the IUCN and WCPA.

**2) National Affairs**

**New Chairperson of SCOPE: SAIL Chairperson Soma Mondal**

Soma Mondal, the chairperson of the state-owned SAIL, was elected the new chairperson of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE).

Mondal will have a two-year term starting April. She took charge of SAIL on January 1, 2021.

SCOPE is an apex professional organization representing the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

**Quick Fact:** SAIL Headquarters are in New Delhi and it was founded on 19 January 1954.

**3) National Affairs**

**National Health Minister launches 'Tribal TB Initiative' in pursuit of TB Mukht Bharat**

The Health Minister has launched the 'Tribal TB Initiative' in pursuit of TB Mukht Bharat.

The government accords top priority to ensuring Universal Access to free treatment and care for TB across the country.

He said the government has already increased the Budget allocation for TB in India four-fold in the last five years.

**Quick Fact:** The Health Minister of India is Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

#### 4) Awards

##### 66th Filmfare Awards 2021

The awards for the 66th annual Filmfare awards were announced. The event was hosted by actors Rajkummar Rao and Riteish Deshmukh.

Despite the difficulties the film industry faced during 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, Filmfare decided it was important to commemorate the best of Indian cinema.

Among the winners was the late Irrfan Khan, who won the award for best actor in a leading role (male) category, while Amitabh Bachchan bagged the best actor (critics) Award.

**Quick Fact:** The awards were first introduced by the Filmfare magazine of The Times Group in 1954, the same year as the National Film Awards.

#### 5) National Affairs

##### NATHEALTH's 7th annual summit

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan, addressed the 7th annual summit of NATHEALTH.

The summit focused on 'Indian Health system expansion in post-COVID era'.

The primary vision of the policy-framework is to attain the highest possible level of health and well-being for all irrespective of all age groups.

**Quick Fact:** The government has also launched the Ayushman Bharat program, which aims to provide free primary health care to all to promote health and well-being.

#### 6) National News

##### Nagaland Health Minister launches 'i-Learn' for Community Health Officers

Nagaland Health and Family Welfare Minister, S Pangnyu Phom has launched i-Learn, a capacity building and performance tracking application for Community Health Officers, CHOs in the state at his office chamber in Kohima.

The state government launched the i-Learn application in partnership with USAID-NISHTHA/Jgpiego which will cater across the 189 Health & wellness centres in the state.

The state is committed to defeating the pandemic and as such it has rolled out several interventions including digital technology like the Naga Telehealth services.

**Quick Fact:** The Chief Minister of Nagaland is Neiphiu Rio and the Governor is R. N. Ravi.

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